

REMARKS

In this response, claims 13-18, 20-23 and 26-29 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter recited therein. Thus, only allowed claims 1 and 3-12 remain pending in the case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 3-12 were allowed in the final Office Action mailed July 12, 2005, and all remaining claims are herein canceled.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 27, 28, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,584,466 to Serbinis et al. Claims 27-29 have been canceled rendering rejection thereto moot.

Section 103 Rejections

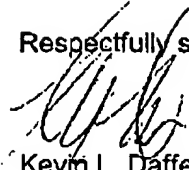
Claims 13-18, 21-23, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serbinis in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,887,136 to Yasuda et al. Claims 13-18, 21-23, and 26 have been canceled rendering rejection thereto moot.

CONCLUSION

This response constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the final Office Action mailed July 12, 2005 and the Advisory Action mailed October 14, 2005. In light of the amendments herein canceling all pending rejected claims, Applicants believe that claims 1 and 3-12 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account no. 09-0447.

Respectfully submitted,



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